The Daily Eurofurence

Maritim Hotel Magdeburg. Sunday, September 5th, 2010 #10

Truth Delivered on Wings of Thunder

This year the Pawpeteers sent our four friends right into the heart of Africa on a quest to bring back the lost wisdom and truth to two warring tribes.

Compared to last year's performance, this year's show might have appeared less bombastic but that didn't at all hinder its success. Quite the contrary. While last year's play delivered incredible special effects, never before seen on a Paw Pet stage, this year's story delivered a wonderful tale of love, friendship and dedication. It was a dramatic tale inspired as much by classical myth and tribal tales as well as "Romeo and Juliet". The moving story of a hyena warrior and a lioness princess who sacrificed everything to bring peace to their tribes through the exposure the atrocities committed in the name of power and greed may not sound like something too original – but the emotional performance and wonderfully developed characters gave the age old tale of star-crossed lovers the needed heart to reach the audience. The show pretty much had all the ingredients of an ancient myth. Warring tribes, powerful lore and in the end, deliverance from evil by the power of the gods. The more serious parts were set off fantastically by great moments of comedy as Lori, who fulfilled the classical mythic role of the wise sage, encountered a tribe of rather anxious meerkats. Indeed, this year's paw pet show was Lori's moment to shine, as she tackled with issues of responsibility and guilt. There were a few venues that could have been explored a little closer, such as Lionel's exploration of his roots and his place inside a tribal society of lions. The cultural differences were hinted at, but did not really become fleshed out. All in all, it can be said that the Paw Pet show delivered a beautiful and engaging tale that could have come right out of the heart of Mother Africa. (cur)

Musicians Rock Piano Bar

While there may be no such thing as a free lunch, Eurofurence has a tradition of providing the audience with free coffee and cookies during the Furry Music Café. The Piano bar provided the perfect setting for the mid-afternoon music jam; about a hundred furs lounged on its cozy sofas and stylish bar stools. From ragtime to metal ballads to folk tunes, there was something for almost everyone's taste. Jari even delivered a grunting industrial rap about "werewolves, eating people".

Event organizer Chama used the occasion to provide previews into his upcoming project "One Day". The concept album, describing a future world where humans, furs and robots clash, will be released and performed on stage next year. Being the creative mind he is, he also presented a brand-new song, entitled "Science and Magic", written on-site and dedicated to a special guest, Alexander J. Adams. The band, whose members included Eisfuchs (drums and vocals), Garra (guitar) and Taibu (bass) also brought back some of the popular tunes of the fondly remembered Fauna Project, such as "Cityfox", "Do Not Love", and "Children of the Sun", much to the audience's delight. (lux)

Impressum: Luxen: Michael Graf; Curry: Andreas Wieland; hHP: Hannu-Heikki Puupponen; Angus: Matthias Bauer; Batian_Lion: Phillip Belper; Ice-Wolf: Carlos Koch

Announcements:
Checkout @ Noon

Today's Timetable

Hotel Checkout.....–12:00
Feedback Session (Mün).....13:00–14:30
Dead Dog Party (Piano Bar).....20:00–02:00

Within Hallowed Halls

Sometimes our fearless reporters risk their life and sanity to bring you, our dear reader, the latest news. This time we managed to infiltrate one of the most mysterious and secret rituals happening during the Con, the infamous Paw Pet Show rehearsal.

Thanks to the helpful assistance of a Hyena guide and the thorough guide tour, provided by a mostly harmless dragon, our reporter was able to see first hand the incredible feat of dedication and logistics going on behind the stage. He had witnessed what was a well rehearsed and co-ordinated team, behind the curtain as well as on the technical stage at the back of the auditorium.

The stage was cluttered with props, scene backgrounds, script sheets and puppets. Everything was arranged to allow quick application as well as being numbered and registered to not create confusion during the performance and to allow for maximum efficiency. The larger stage space is of course a blessing when it comes to storage. The puppeteers and stage hands experienced a few inconveniences of the new working area, such as the curtain and backdrop operation. But excellent communication inside the team as well as long years of routine will help them pull the show off without major problem. Our reporter even was let in on some trade secrets; for example, some of the smaller speaking parts sometimes are prerecorded to ease operation during the performance. Seeing the inner operation of the show is as exciting as the final product itself. (cur)

"Dr. Furringstone," I Presume

A small audience gathered to watch Dr. Furringstone select a new assistant. The interview process involved recognition of African wildlife with a picture quiz where quick identification of the gradually appearing image provided more points. His departing assistant, Stanley, was quick to provide off-beat facts about each species.

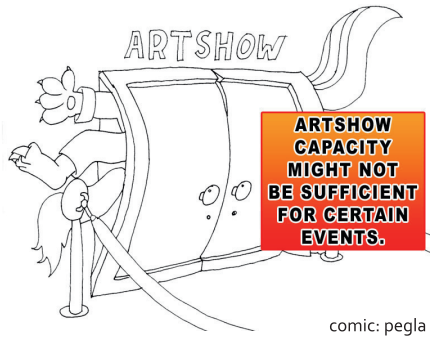
Three candidates took part in each of the first two rounds. Two winners moved on to a final with more obscure species and difficult pictures. The most important part was still to come, as Dr. Furringstone wanted to ensure that the new assistant will be able to cope with handling real animals. Both finalists were provided with bait and the canine unleashed – this test ending in favour of Kieran.(hHP)

Fursuits go "Hi-Tech"

Furvan, Tioh and Kittfoxx gave a class on practical animatronics – the art of animating inanimate things using electronics – to an eager crowd of furs who wish to take their suits to The Next Level in creating the illusion of anthro life.

Whatever techniques for creating and controlling movement are used, all agreed that heads must be sturdy and rigid, yet lightweight; that points of movement must be as friction-free as possible; and moving parts must be as light as possible. Only then can one worry about servomotors (using the lightest yet most rugged available). Placement must take into account such hazards as bumping into unseen objects and over-enthusiastic hugs from fans.

As more controls are added (directional eyes, eyelids, "snarl" feature, etc.) it becomes too difficult to manually control all servos. Enter the programmable micro-controller, a circuit as small as a postage stamp, which is programmed to run the servos simultaneously; this is good for scripted performances synchronised to a voice track or music. Add an MPC player to cue the performer, and the internal soundtrack can be linked to the P/A system via "Bluetooth". How about a fully articulated, emotion-expressive tail? They are working on it... (Rex)



comic: pegla

EF Photos:

Angus
Batian
Chitatz
Tekumseh